3: Beals, Carrasco & McCorkle E-5 (1940-1942)1944 NU34 Tarasco NU34
Sierra Tarascans

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FIGURE 1.—Map of the modern Tarascan region.

[p.5c]

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Map 1.—Topographic map of the modern Taras

[Facing page 1; section A]

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Topographic map of the modern Tarascan area.

[Facing page 1; section B]

4: West K-5 (1946) 1948 NU34 Tarasco NU34
[P. 1-B]

191 The present territory of Tarascan speech con-
131 sists of a relatively small area (about 3,500 sq. km.) in northwestern Michoacán. Approximately, the modern area extends eastward from the Zamora-Los Reyes railroad to the east shore of Lake Pátzcuaro, and southward from the México-Guadalajara highway to a line drawn between Pátzcuaro and the peak of Tancítaro (map 1).[1] A few small islands of Tarascan-speaking folk exist south of the main area. Within the present
[161] area nearly 55,000 individuals of indigenous speech live in 66 Tarascan pueblos and 50 ranchos.

131 Four geographical regions comprise the modern
101 Tarascan area. (1) The Sierra (called by the Tarascans Sierra or Siériŭ) is the largest of the regions, the main portion of which extends westward from Lake Pátzcuaro to slightly east of the Zamora-Los Reyes railroad.[1a] The northern

[1] Map 1 is based on an enlarged portion of sheet 643A (Uruapan) of the AAF Preliminary Base, 1:500,000. This sheet was compiled by the U. S. Aeronautical Chart Service in January 1945 from AAF trimetrogon photography taken in December 1942. Positions and names of topographic features which appear on the accompanying map were checked on the ground during the spring of 1946. Some errors were encountered on the original map: misnamed localities (e. g. Ajuno), small errors in routes of highways and railroads, mistakes in elevations. Drainage was found to be fairly correct. On map 1 only the more important trails are indicated. Numbered localities refer to the following ranchos:

1. Guarachanillo.	14. San Marcos Arachécuta.	27. Patambicha.
2. Aranza.	15. Huancho.	28. Ojo de Agua.
3. Las Trejas.	16. Las Cocinas.	29. Icbupío.
4. Las Cañas.	17. San Nicolás.	30. Tararío.
5. El Venado.	18. La Alberca.	31. Uzuandstacua.
6. Tapan.	19. La Atasenda.	32. La Vinata.
7. Tierras Blancas.	20. El Rosario.	33. Las Granadas.
8. La Mesa.	21. El Tepemal.	34. Yunuén.
9. La Tinaja.	22. Tapetate.	35. Tecuena.
10. Querándaro.	23. Tejamanil.	36. Urandín Morales.
11. Zaramora.	24. Pacápatiro.	37. Urandín Morelos.
12. San Luis Sereno.	25. Chupícuaro.	38. Urandín Curian.
13. La Jolla.	26. Opongulo.	39. El Padre.

The following Tarascan ranchos (listed in the official 1940 census) are not located: Tzintzicha (municipio of Chilchota); Agua Escondida (municipio of Tangancícuaro); Las Encinillas and Las Lauvias (municipio of Tangamandapio); La Providencia and El Tropezón (municipio of Los Reyes); El Tejocote (municipio of Paracho); Revolución (municipio of Erongarícuaro); and Itziparámaca (municipio of Tzintzuntzan).

[1a] On modern maps the high area west of Lake Pátzcuaro is termed "Sierra de los Tarascos." In colonial documents the area was usually called "Sierra de Michoacán."

133 [312] [361] have attracted human settlement to the valley since prehistoric times. Sierra Tarascans, who call La Cañada "Erásemen" (view from above), [102] probably visited the valley for chile and early maize before the Spanish Conquest. Spaniards immediately seized the well-watered plains near Chilchota for wheat fields. Today La Cañada is a garden spot of orchards and wheat fields amid rocky volcanic hills.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

132 **Meteorological data.**—In dealing with meteorology, northwestern Michoacán will be treated as a whole; attempts will be made to point out regional differences in temperature and rainfall. Meteorological stations in the area are few; data are entirely lacking for the Sierra. Consequently, only general statements can be made concerning the weather and climate of modern Tarasca.

11: Boyd H-4, 5 (1953) 1958
NU34 Tarasco NU34

[P.3]

INTRODUCTION

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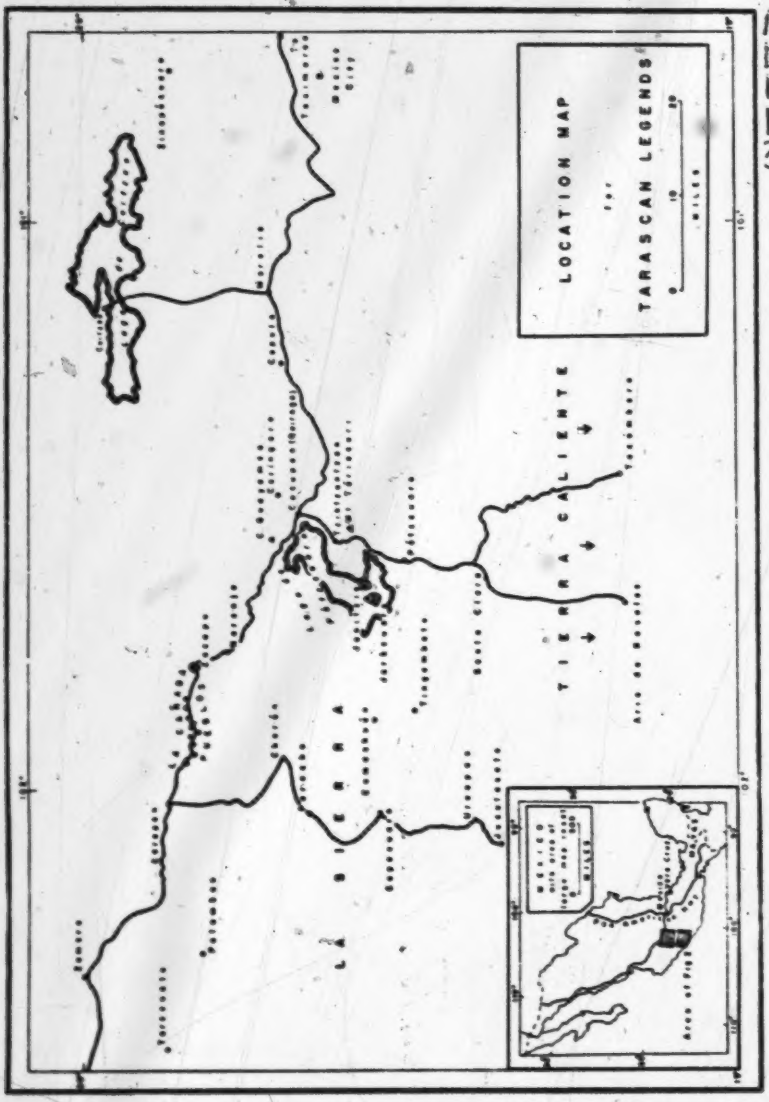


Fig. 1. Map of the Tarascan Area.

11: Boyd H-4, 5 (1953) 1958
NU34 Tarasco NU34

of the town of Cuitzeo; the other stories were told by Manuel Valenzuela, a former guide around Tzintzuntzan, in his uniquely exciting, urbane style.

Told and retold for generations in their native tongue, these tales were rendered orally in the Spanish of the region and translated into English by the author.

The stories have a continuity dating back to the sixteenth century (Ruiz, 1940). The exact phraseology varies with the individual

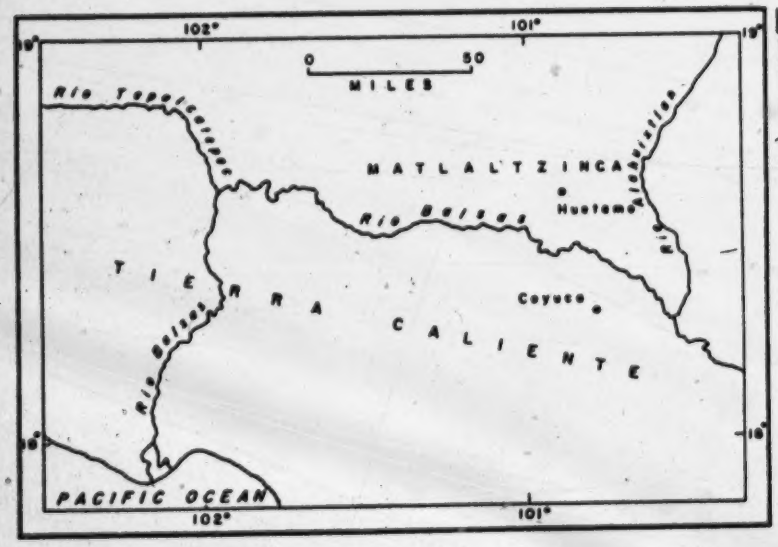


Fig. 2. Map of the Tierra Caliente of Michoacán

narrator, and his rendition usually conforms to the peculiar orientation given by his native pueblo. Some of these legends were published in Spanish by Ruiz in 1940, but this presentation represents their first appearance in English. The Ruiz versions are more elaborate than those presented herein and thereby form an interesting comparison.